

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

In a Notice of Allowability mailed March 11, 2005, the Examiner indicated that French Patent documents FR 2754715 (Reference B on the Form PTO/SB/08A is attached hereto) and FR 2754182 (Reference C) were not considered because they are non-English language documents. On April 11, 2005, Applicants' representative held a telephonic interview with the Examiner. Applicants' representatives appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the April 11, 2005 telephonic interview. During the interview, the Examiner agreed to consider any English language equivalents of the French Patent documents.

In response the Examiner's invitation, Applicants provide herewith a Form PTO/SB/08A listing U.S. Patent No. 6,117,432 ("the '432 patent") (Reference A) and U.S. Patent Application No. 08/946,114 ("the '114 application") (Reference D).¹ The '432 patent claims foreign priority to French Application No. 96 12718, which published as FR 2754715. Likewise, the '114 application claims foreign priority to French Application No. 96 12191, which published as FR 2754182. Accordingly, Applicants submit these English language priority documents for the Examiner's consideration of FR 2754715 and FR 2754182.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's consideration of FR 2754715 and FR 2754182, as well as the above English language priority documents of FR 2754715 and FR 2754182. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner return a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A with the Examiner's initials in the left column per M.P.E.P. § 609.

¹ The '114 application was abandoned on September 1, 2000.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

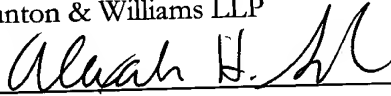
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunton & Williams LLP

Dated: June 10, 2005

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